

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1-2 (Canceled).
3. (Previously Presented) A nail holder strip, having a plurality of nail holders comprising:  
a support base, for holding and supporting a nail;  
a passage in said support base, for receiving said nail therethrough;  
a protrusion within said passage, so as to provide a releasable frictional hold on said nail, wherein said protrusion within said passage in at least one of said plurality of nail holders is positioned in an opposite position in relation to said protrusion within said passage in an adjacent nail holder of said plurality of nail holders forming said nail holder strip; and  
a stiffening stem positioned adjacent to said passage and to said support base, so as to provide additional rigidity to the strip;  
wherein each of said plurality of nail holders is releasably attached to form said nail holder strip.
4. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 3, wherein said passage is semi-circular.
5. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 3, wherein said protrusion includes a flat surface.
6. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 3, wherein said stiffening stem includes a plurality of stiffening stems positioned adjacent to said passage and to said support base.
7. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 6, wherein said plurality of stiffening stems are on opposite sides of said passage.

8. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 6, further comprising a brace adjacent to said support base and at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

9. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 8, wherein said brace includes a plurality of braces adjacent to said support base, and said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

10. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 6, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

11. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 3, wherein said passage includes a first portion and a second portion, and wherein said first portion and said second portion have different diameters.

12. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 3, further comprising a brace adjacent to said support base and said stiffening stem, so as to reinforce or stabilize said stiffening stem.

13. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 12, wherein said brace includes a plurality of braces adjacent to said support base and said stiffening stem, so as to reinforce or stabilize said stiffening stem.

14. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 3, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders.

15. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 14, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to said support base.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A nail holder strip, having a plurality of nail holders, comprising:

a support base, for holding and supporting a nail;  
a passage in said support base, for receiving said nail therethrough;  
a stiffening stem positioned adjacent to said passage and to said support base, so as to provide additional rigidity to the strip; and

a protrusion within said passage, so as to provide a releasable frictional hold on said nail, wherein said protrusion within said passage in at least one of said plurality of nail holders is positioned in an opposite position in relation to said protrusion within said passage in an adjacent nail holder of said plurality of nail holders forming said nail holder strip;

wherein each of said plurality of nail holders is releasably attached to form said nail holder strip.

18. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 17, wherein said passage is semi-circular.

19. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 17, wherein said protrusion includes a flat surface.

20. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 17, wherein said stiffening stem includes a plurality of stiffening stems positioned adjacent to said passage and to said support base.

21. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 20, wherein said plurality of stiffening stems are on opposite sides of said passage.

22. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 20, further comprising a brace adjacent to said support base and at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

23. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 22, wherein said brace includes a plurality of braces adjacent to said support base, and said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

24. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 20, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

25. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 17, wherein said passage includes a first portion and a second portion, and wherein said first portion and said second portion have different diameters.

26. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 17, further comprising a brace adjacent to said support base and said stiffening stem, so as to reinforce or stabilize said stiffening stem.

27. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 26, wherein said brace includes a plurality of braces adjacent to said support base and said stiffening stem, so as to reinforce or stabilize said stiffening stem.

28. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 17, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders.

29. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 28, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to said support base.

30. (Original) A nail holder strip, having a plurality of nail holders comprising,  
a support base, for holding and supporting a nail;  
a passage in said support base, for receiving said nail therethrough;  
a stiffening stem positioned adjacent to said passage and to said support base, so  
as to provide additional rigidity to the strip;  
a protrusion within said passage, so as to provide a releasable frictional hold on  
said nail;  
wherein said protrusion within said passage in at least one of said plurality of nail  
holders is positioned in an opposite position in relation to said protrusion within said  
passage in an adjacent nail holder of said plurality of nail holders forming said nail holder  
strip; and  
wherein each of said plurality of nail holders is releasably attached to form said  
nail holder strip.

31-32. (Canceled).

33. (Previously Presented) A nail holder strip, having a plurality of nail holders,  
comprising:  
a support base, for holding and supporting a nail;  
a passage in said support base, for receiving said nail therethrough;  
a plurality of stiffening stems positioned adjacent to said passage and to said  
support base, so as to provide additional rigidity to the strip;  
a brace adjacent to said support base, and at least one of said plurality of  
stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of  
stiffening stems; and  
a protrusion within said passage, so as to provide a releasable frictional hold on  
said nail, wherein said protrusion within said passage in at least one of said plurality of  
nail holders is positioned in an opposite position in relation to said protrusion within said

passage in an adjacent nail holder of said plurality of nail holders forming said nail holder strip;

wherein each of said plurality of nail holders is releasably attached to form said nail holder strip.

34. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 33, wherein said passage is semi-circular.

35. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 33, wherein said protrusion includes a flat surface.

36. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 33, wherein said plurality of stiffening stems are on opposite sides of said passage.

37. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 33, wherein said brace includes a plurality of braces adjacent to said support base, and said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems, so as to reinforce or stabilize said at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

38. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 33, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to at least one of said plurality of stiffening stems.

39. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 33, wherein said passage includes a first portion and a second portion, and wherein said first portion and said second portion have different diameters.

40. (Previously Presented) The nail holder strip according to claim 33, further comprising a breakable bridge between each of said plurality of nail holders.

41. (Original) The nail holder strip according to claim 40, wherein said breakable bridge is attached to said support base.

42-50. (Canceled)